ABSTRACT

A translucent ceramic principally contains a composition represented by the formula $Ba\{Ti_{x1}M_{x2}(Mg_{1-t}Zn_t)_y(Ta_{1-u}Nb_u)_z\}_vO_w$, wherein M is at least one selected from the group consisting of Sn, Zr, and Hf; w is a positive number for maintaining the electrical neutrality; $x1 + x2 + y + z = 1$; $0.015 \leq x1 + x2 \leq 0.90$; $0 < x1 \leq 0.90$; $0 \leq x2 \leq 0.60$; $1.60 \leq z / y \leq 2.40$; $1.00 \leq v \leq 1.05$; $0 < t < 1$; and $0 \leq u \leq 1$. The translucent ceramic has high linear transmittance over a wide wavelength range and a large refractive index, is controllable in refractive index and Abbe number in a wide range, and is not birefringent. Therefore, lenses (2) made of the translucent ceramic are suitable for optical pickups (9) and other devices that must be small-sized and thin.